

Madam Speaker, we have to find a new direction and be like America has been in the past, innovative and creative.

A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY LOWRY
FOR HER FOUR DECADES OF
PUBLIC SERVICE TO CALIFOR-
NIA'S MOJAVE DESERT COMMU-
NITIES

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Beverly Lowry, a dear friend and dedicated public servant who has helped guide the city of Barstow and other High Desert communities for nearly 40 years.

A native of Emporia, Kansas, Mrs. Lowry has lived in California since 1947, and moved with her husband Al in 1966 to the Mojave Desert outpost of Barstow. Although she is a veteran traveler, she has called the desert her home ever since, raising two sons and watching two grandsons grow up there.

Friends of Bev Lowry know she is not one to sit on the sidelines, and just a few years after arriving in the desert she was elected to the Barstow Heights Community Services District board, which provided city-like services in an unincorporated area. During her 26-year service on that board, she oversaw the paving of nearly 33 miles of residential streets and the creation of a new off-ramp from Interstate 15 to serve the community.

Bev Lowry's involvement in public policy grew beyond local elected boards when she joined the staff of California State Sen. Walter Stiern in 1974. For the next 20 years, she served the constituents of legislators and county supervisors as a staff member, becoming a recognized expert at solving problems and resolving disagreements with county, State, and even Federal officials. Needless to say, since these were also my constituents as a member of Congress, I came to know Bev well and respect her greatly.

As both a staffer and a local representative, Bev Lowry was one of the leaders in securing State funding to build Silver Valley High School and the Newberry Springs Senior Center, as well as for the improvement of State Highway 58, an important cross-desert link.

Perhaps her most significant contributions to her community came through Bev Lowry's service as a board member of the Mojave Water Agency and her tremendous accomplishment as chairwoman of the committee to bring a State Veteran's Home to Barstow.

The Mojave Water Agency was created to deal with the serious problem of over-drafting of the underground basins that provide nearly all of the water for tens of thousands of desert residents. The agency was tasked with providing State Water Project water to residents of both the Mojave Desert and the eastern desert area known as the Morongo Basin. It was my honor to work with Bev and the other members of the MWA board to provide funding for pipelines to deliver this water, which now serves more than 100,000 people. The district has also begun an ambitious water reclamation plan, and Bev was here in the House Chamber to observe Federal approval for that plan.

Thanks to Bev Lowry's leadership, State officials in the 1990s chose Barstow over 28 competing locations to build the first State Veteran's Home in more than 100 years. The home provides a sanctuary for 400 retired and ambulatory veterans from throughout the High Desert area.

Bev Lowry has been deservedly recognized for her contributions, chosen as Woman of the Year by the Barstow Chamber of Commerce—and then selected by the chamber as Woman of the Decade in 1987.

Madam Speaker, every community in America wishes it had leaders like Beverly Lowry, who can pull people together and get major things accomplished. This weekend, Bev will be paid a wonderful tribute by the Barstow Community College Foundation, which is creating a scholarship in her name. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Lowry on her achievements, and thank her for her decades of public service.

CONGRESS CALLS FOR COM-
PREHENSIVE REVIEW OF LAND-
MINE POLICY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today 68 members of the United States Senate sent a bipartisan letter to President Obama calling for a comprehensive review of the U.S. policy on anti-personnel landmines, urging the Administration to identify any obstacles to joining the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction. I am proud to say that 57 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives also sent a bipartisan letter to the President in support of their Senate colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has not exported anti-personnel mines since 1992; it has not produced anti-personnel landmines since 1997; and it has not used anti-personnel landmines since 1991. During the past decade, the United States has become the world's largest contributor to humanitarian demining and rehabilitation programs for landmine survivors. I firmly believe that it's time for the United States to formally join the 158 nations of the world who are parties to Convention banning anti-personnel landmines so that we can receive the credit for which our nation is long overdue and restore our leadership in shaping the Convention in the future.

I know that there are military questions that require review so that all sectors of our government are united in joining the Convention. I believe there are answers to these questions, answers that our NATO allies and other nations have confronted and overcome over the past decade as they complied with Convention's requirements. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge among our NATO allies, all of whom are parties to this Treaty, on adopting new military strategies and tactics, working with non-Treaty States, and identifying alternative weaponry as we abandon, once and for all, this indiscriminate, rogue weapon. I encourage our military leaders to reach out to our NATO partners and consult with their military counterparts on how they

adapted and complied with the Landmine Ban Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen first-hand the results of anti-personnel landmines on civilians and soldiers in El Salvador and Colombia. I have talked with survivors from around the globe, including men and women who proudly wear the U.S. military uniform. I have met with landmine survivors, including children, who were only working their fields or walking to school when they stepped on a landmine. They are not victims, Mr. Speaker—they are survivors and leaders in a global movement to ban this weapon from all current and future arsenals. They are clear-eyed, sophisticated individuals who are determined that no one—in uniform or civilian—shall ever be harmed again by these weapons.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is in our best national and security interests to join the Convention. Clearly, the bipartisan letter by our Senate colleagues and the supporting House letter show that the time has come for the United States to once again take up its leadership on this international issue. I ask unanimous consent to enter the House and Senate letters and related materials into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, May 18, 2010.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to convey our strong support for the Administration's decision to conduct a comprehensive review of United States policy on landmines. The Second Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, held last December in Cartagena, Colombia, makes this review particularly timely. It is also consistent with your commitment to reaffirm U.S. leadership in solving global problems and with your remarks in Oslo when you accepted the Nobel Peace Prize: "I am convinced that adhering to standards, international standards, strengthens those who do, and isolates and weakens those who don't."

These indiscriminate weapons are triggered by the victim, and even those that are designed to self-destruct after a period of time (so-called "smart" mines) pose a risk of being triggered by U.S. forces or civilians, such as a farmer working in the fields or a young child. It is our understanding that the United States has not exported anti-personnel mines since 1992, has not produced anti-personnel mines since 1997, and has not used anti-personnel mines since 1991. We are also proud that the United States is the world's largest contributor to humanitarian demining and rehabilitation programs for landmine survivors.

In the ten years since the Convention came into force, 158 nations have signed including the United Kingdom and other ISAF partners, as well as Iraq and Afghanistan which, like Colombia, are parties to the Convention and have suffered thousands of mine casualties. The Convention has led to a dramatic decline in the use, production, and export of anti-personnel mines.

We note that our NATO allies have addressed their force protection needs in accordance with their obligations under the Convention. We are also mindful that anti-personnel mines pose grave dangers to civilians, and that avoiding civilian casualties and the anger and resentment that result has become a key priority in building public support for our mission in Afghanistan. Finally,